

Guo, Sofia Montelibano, Polina Novikova, Makenzie Sing, Lillian Spencer, Melaina Thompson, Margaret Tracht, Yutaka Tomokio, Annika Vaughan, Colleen Vine, and Nathan Weaver; and from South Fayette High School, Zoe McCoy.

I would like to thank these impressive young artists for allowing us to share and celebrate their talents, imagination, and creativity. The efforts of these students in expressing themselves in a powerful and positive manner are no less than spectacular.

I hope that all of these individuals continue to utilize their artistic talents, and I wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING WARD TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 4, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ward Transport & Logistics for its longstanding dedication to our central Pennsylvania community as it celebrates 90 years of service. For decades, this nationally recognized trucking company has been instrumental in supplying and sustaining our local economy.

Since W. W. Ward founded the company in 1931, Ward Transport & Logistics has grown substantially and now operates 20 locations across the northeastern United States. This success is testament to the hard work and dedication of the Ward family. Ninety years later, Ward Transport & Logistics is now led by the fourth generation of the Ward family and it employs more than 1,400 workers in Pennsylvania and beyond.

As the company has expanded, its community outreach also has grown. Ward Hearts & Hands is a volunteer program overseen by employees with a heart for service. Their work to support critical community projects includes setting up charity events, serving meals and partnering with local food banks, delivering supplies to elderly members of the Blair County community, and fostering a children's mentoring program to grow the next generation of talent in our community.

Throughout their work to provide essential services, Ward Transport & Logistics has gone above and beyond in support of the Blair County community. As the Ward family and their entire team celebrate 90 years of service, I congratulate Ward Transport & Logistics on this outstanding legacy and wish them continued success.

CONGRATULATING INDIANA SECRETARY OF STATE CONNIE LAWSON ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 4, 2021

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate former Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson on her recent retirement and to thank her for many years of dedicated service to Hoosiers.

Throughout her years of public service, Connie has dedicated herself to moving Indiana forward. She was elected to the Indiana State Senate in 1996, and, in 2006, she became the first woman to serve as Senate Majority Floor Leader. In 2012, she was appointed to serve as Indiana's 61st Secretary of State. In these roles, she worked tirelessly to strengthen our communities and advance opportunities for future generations. Connie truly made our state a better place for Hoosiers to live, work, and thrive.

I am grateful to have worked with Connie on behalf of our state's businesses, workers, families, and voters. Her strong conservative values and Hoosier common sense have helped bring Indiana's businesses into the 21st century and ensured our elections remained free, fair, and secure. Her unmatched leadership, tenacity, and integrity, both in the Indiana Senate and as Secretary of State, have helped secure Indiana's status as an economic powerhouse. With a AAA credit rating, fiscally responsible budget, and low unemployment rate, our state is among the best places in the country to start and grow a business.

Governor Eric Holcomb has dubbed Connie "Indiana's own Iron Lady," and I couldn't agree more. She is a true patriot with a servant's heart, and her passion for helping her fellow Hoosiers has always been clear. I have no doubt her legacy will last far into the future.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Indiana's 61st Secretary of State Connie Lawson for her lifelong commitment to serving our communities. On behalf of 2nd District Hoosiers, I wish her the best as she embarks on this next chapter in life.

COMMEMORATING THE 77TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY AND REMEMBERING THE MEMBERS OF THE GREATEST GENERATION WHO SAVED FREEDOM IN THE WORLD

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 4, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, tomorrow, June 6, marks the 77th anniversary of D-Day, the Allied Forces' audacious amphibious landing at Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944.

This joint undertaking to liberate the continent of Europe from the clutches of an evil aggressor enemy was the first and most emphatic demonstration of the invincible strength of democratic nations when acting collectively.

For more than 70 years, peace in Europe has been secured and no adversary, not the old Soviet Union or the contemporary Russian Federation, has dared to risk war by attacking a European ally of the United States because every American president has made clear that the United States is committed to Article V of the North Atlantic Treaty which holds that an attack on any NATO member is regarded as an attack on all of them.

Madam Speaker, Operation Overlord, as D-Day was formally known, was the largest single amphibious assault in the history of warfare.

The success of D-Day, which was far from certain at the outset, led to the liberation of

Western Europe, signaled the death knell of the German Wehrmacht, and paved the way to unconditional victory by the Allied Forces over the evils of Nazism, fascism, and Japanese imperialism.

It is no exaggeration to say that D-Day changed the course of human history.

The aim of the meticulously planned D-Day operation was to open a second front in the European war theater from which the Allied Forces could attack the German army and push east to capture Berlin.

With the Russian Army advancing from the east, coupled with the southern front opened by the Allied invasion of Italy from North Africa in 1942, the opening of a western front would set in motion the pincer movement that would catch the German Army in a trap from which there would be no escape.

The formidable German Army expected that the Allied Forces would try to launch an invasion from the western beaches of France.

They just did not know when or where.

So, in anticipation of an Allied invasion, the Nazis constructed the infamous Atlantic Wall, an extensive system of coastal fortifications built along the western coast of Europe and Scandinavia.

Under the direction of Field Marshal Rommel, the Atlantic Wall was reinforced by the addition of concrete pillboxes built along the beaches to house machine guns, antitank guns and light artillery.

Mines and antitank obstacles were planted on the beaches themselves and underwater obstacles and mines were placed in waters just offshore.

By the time of the D-Day landing, the Nazis had laid almost six million mines in northern France.

And awaiting Allied soldiers who made their way onto and away from the beaches were gun emplacements and minefields extended inland.

"War is hell," said General William Tecumseh Sherman during the Civil War.

And that is an apt description of what awaited the brave Allied warriors who set sail from England to the beaches of Normandy in the early morning of June 6, 1944, at the beginning of what has rightly been called "The Longest Day."

But they were buoyed in their resolve by the millions of prayers from Americans and others back home, of all races, religions, and creeds, invoking the Lord's blessing, mercy, and grace.

With the outcome in doubt, President Franklin Roosevelt asked the nation to join him in this solemn prayer:

"Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity."

"Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith."

"They will need Thy blessings."

"For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace."

"They fight not for the lust of conquest."

"They fight to end conquest."

"They fight to liberate."

"They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and goodwill among all Thy people."

"They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home."